

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 11, 1983
TO: Warner K. Reeser
FROM: John Blueyes *JB*
SUBJECT: Trip Report, T.A. 23-571

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: *SC*

Date: *6/12/13*

I met with the Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Council on 4-6-83. My presentation to the council was requested by the pueblo's Natural Resource Committee. I had met with the committee previously (see my trip report of 4-4-83). At that meeting we agreed to approach the council about the possibility of the pueblo undertaking the task of reclaiming the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine.

My presentation began with a historical overview of the mining, reclamation plan review, negotiations with Anaconda Minerals Company (AMC) on the reclamation plan, the status of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and relationships with the government and AMC. My talk with regard to the pueblo assuming reclamation responsibilities was keyed to impressing the council with the fact that the majority of the reclamation work can be accomplished by the pueblo people. About 75% of the work consists of earth moving. The pueblo people have the manpower to operate the required heavy equipment. Another 15% of the work entails work by such people as electricians, equipment maintenance, carpenters, welders, etc., that are also available from the pueblo. Other nonskilled personnel such as laborers, guards, etc., likewise can come from the pueblo. Only a few professionals not from the pueblo will be required for management, supervisory, and technical positions. The rest of my talk consisted of costs associated with reclamation. A third party independent of the pueblo, AMC, or the government will break down the reclamation costs reflecting the manner in which the EIS's preferred alternative specifies. This document will be used in negotiating a cost settlement with AMC for the pueblo's reclamation costs.

Members of the council had numerous questions. Newly elected council members had questions specific to the reclamation plan. However, we delayed answering their questions, because we wanted to address the tribal reclamation concerns. Questions pertinent to a tribal operation included the type and amount of experts required, and how the costs of reclamation were arrived at. After lengthy discussions, the council meeting was adjourned until the following day. Unfortunately, we were unable to get back into the council chambers due to the council's heavy agenda.

Upon the tribal council's decision we will proceed accordingly. Should they decide on not pursuing a tribal reclamation operation we will continue to provide input into the EIS proceedings and maybe participate in discussions with AMC. If the tribe approves the option of assuming reclamation operations, future work will be oriented toward that subject.

JB/dj



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